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PATENT

Practitioner's Dkt. No.: 8403.956

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicant: Donald E. Weder, Joseph G. Straeter
and Michael R. Klemme**

Serial No.: 10/635,043

Art Unit: 3721

Filed: August 5, 2003

Examiner: Unknown

**For: METHOD OF COVERING A POT
WITH A FLORAL SLEEVE HAVING
A SIDE-SEALED BOTTOM GUSSET**

Conf. No.: 4660

**MS Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**List of Sections Forming Part of This
Information Disclosure Statement**

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

1. [X] Preliminary Statements
2. [X] Form PTO-1449 (Modified)
3. [X] Statement as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications
4. [X] Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying this Statement
5. [X] Identification of Person(s) Making this Information Disclosure Statement

Section 1. Preliminary Statements

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

Section 2. Form PTO-1449 (Modified)

[X] A completed Form PTO-1449 (Modified) is attached hereto.

Section 3. Statement as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications (Information Not Listed in Form PTO-1449)

Plant sleeves are old in the art. Plant sleeves typically are constructed of polymer film or paper. Plant sleeves generally are tapered (trapezoidally shaped) with an open top and an open bottom, although some have a closed bottom. A plant in a pot is placed in the plant sleeve so that the sleeve covers the pot and the plant. In some instances, an upper portion of the plant sleeve is removable along a line of perforations leaving at least a portion of the sleeve around the pot. In some instances, a separate sheet of material is placed about the pot and the remaining bottom portion of the plant sleeve holds this separate sheet of material in place. Alternatively, a floral grouping alone may be placed within the sleeve. It is also known to put potted plants in grocery bags.

It is also old in the art to form a sheet of material about a flower pot and then place an elastic band around the sheet of material to hold the sheet in place about the flower pot. In some instances, the band has been positioned about the outer surface of the pot with the sheet of material positioned between the band and the flower pot. In some instances, the band has been positioned

above the upper end of the pot thereby causing a portion of the sheet of material to be forced inwardly over the upper end of the pot.

It is also old in the art to form a sheet of material into a conically shaped tube like member referred to commonly in the art as a sleeve. A floral grouping or flower pot with flowers therein can be disposed through the larger open end of the sleeve, wherein the sleeve covers the floral grouping or the flower pot and extends above and around the flowers in the floral grouping or flower pot.

It is also old in the art that cut flowers have been wrapped with the following materials or combinations of materials:

1. Kraft paper plus waxed or unwaxed tissue paper with the flowers being placed next to the waxed paper or tissue paper.
2. Kraft paper plus newspaper plus waxed or unwaxed tissue with the flowers being placed next to the waxed or unwaxed tissue. These three materials have been used to wrap flowers in various combinations such as Kraft paper plus newspaper or Kraft paper plus waxed or unwaxed tissue paper or newspaper plus waxed or unwaxed tissue paper.
3. Waxed or unwaxed tissue paper, polymer films and Kraft paper (treated for water resistance or wet strength or untreated).
4. Polymer film and waxed tissue paper.

Section 4. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying this Statement

☒ Legible copies of all items listed in Form PTO-1449 (Modified) accompany this information disclosure statement.

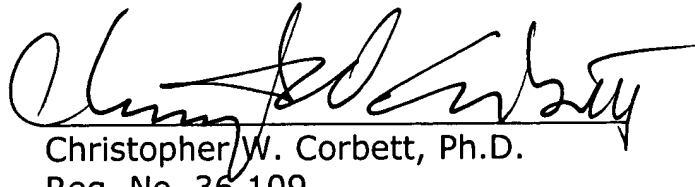
Section 5. Identification of Person(s) Making this SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The person making this statement is the attorney who signs below on the basis of the information:

☐ supplied by the inventor(s)

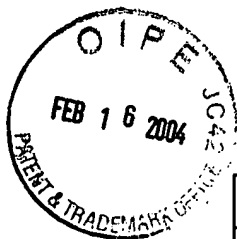
- [] supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)).
- [X] in the attorney's file

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher W. Corbett", written over a horizontal line.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Complete if Known	
Application Number	10/635,043
Filing Date	08/05/2003
First Named Inventor	Donald E. Weder et al.
Group Art Unit	3721 (Conf. No. 4660)
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	8403.956

(use as many sheets as necessary)

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM INIT.	Cite No. 1	U.S. PATENT NUMBER Number	Kind Code ² (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM- DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1	6,286,255		Weder et al.	09/11/2001	
	2	6,286,256		Weder	09/11/2001	
	3	6,345,467		Weder	02/12/2002	
	4	6,539,667		Weder	04/01/2003	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAM INIT.	Cite No. 1	Foreign Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM- DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office 3	Number 4	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
	5		PCT/US03/10415		PCT International Search Report	07/22/2003	

U.S. and Foreign: ¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3). ⁴ Form Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard St. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT DOCUMENTS

Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published

Non Patent Documents: ¹ Unique citation designation number. ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. **Place of Publication refers to name of publication in which the information was published.